



Bakkies were used to transport SAIAA members around White Thorn farms

# 2019 AGRONOMISTS FIELD DAY

The South African Sugar Industry Agronomists Association recently held a field day on White Thorn farms owned by Conrad and Henning Klipp in Dalton. This event was hugely successful with an attendance of almost 60 Agronomist Association members, growers and SASRI staff. The theme of the day was "Conservation Agriculture".

Conrad and Henning Klipp are brothers who are avid promoters of good soil health to grow a healthy crop. Their farming philosophy adheres to ensuring surface water runoff is controlled, as water is the single most limiting resource required for crop growth. Their farm's good soil structure also ensures excellent infiltration of water deep into the soil for maximum absorption by the roots. One of the immediate benefits of this practice is reduced or no soil erosion. All standard husbandry and nutrition practises are also accurately carried out to ensure sustainability of

their farm. Some of these practices include land use planning, green manuring, limiting compaction, soil sampling and adhering to FAS fertiliser recommendations.

The day's agenda included the following events:-

- **Welcome** (*Rian van Antwerpen*)
- **Introduction to the area** (*Friedel Eggers*)
- **Introduction to White Thorn farms (LUP: Road construction, contour bank construction and erosion control; Soil health: Green manuring, organic ameliorants, soil acidity and yield trends; Variety disposition)**(*Conrad Klipp and Henning Klipp*)
- **P&D: Update on Eldana and YSA in the area** (*Tom Webster*)
- **Field trip to the two farms** (*Conrad Klipp and Henning Klipp*)

The day concluded with a light lunch at the Dalton Club.

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The day started with a few presentations about the Dalton area and practises on White Thorn farms.

